

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO OAU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

XMT AMEMBASSY LOME

S E C R E T STATE 044084

FOL RPT LOME 509 ACTION SECSTATE 25 FEB 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T LOME 509

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, OAU

SUBJ: MULTI-LATERAL AFFAIRS: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING
LOME, FEB 22-28

REF: (A) COTONOU 395, (B) LOME 474, (C) LOME 483,

1. BENIN: THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON BENIN HAS RETURNED FROM COTONOU AND IS PREPARING ITS REPORT. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS UN-ANIMOUS FINDINGS IMPLICATE GABON AND MOROCCO AS SUPPORTERS OF MERCENARY ATTACK. GABON AND MOROCCO DELEGATES ARE ARGUING THAT IF OAU ADOPTS SUCH A REPORT THEIR COUNTRIES WILL PROBABLY LEAVE OAU. THIS INVESTIGATION OF BENIN AFFAIR HAS BECOME MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE WITH SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICAN UNITY. HOTHEADS ARE TRYING TO FORCE EARLY RELEASE OF REPORT BY LEAKING CONCLUSIONS. MODERATES HOPE TO DELAY REPORT UNTIL END OF SESSION

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IN HOPES THAT UN INVESTIGATION WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INDICTMENTS OF GABON AND MOROCCO (SEE REFTEL A).

2. DJIBOUTI: OAU COMMITTEE STUDYING REPORT OF LIBERATION COMMITTEE BOGGED DOWN FEBRUARY 24 ON QUESTION OF WHO WAS ENTITLED TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN DJIBOUTI AND ZIMBABWE. TWO FACTIONS OF DJIBOUTI NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE UNION BOTH CLAIMING

TO BE LEGITIMATE LEADERS OF ORGANIZATION ARE IN LOME. APPARENTLY LIBERATION COMMITTEE ACCEPTED CREDENTIALS OF THE "NEW" LEADERSHIP BASED ON FRENCH DOCUMENTATION. "OLD" NIU LEADERS ARE NOW CHALLENGING THIS DECISION. THE COM COMMITTEE PUT OFF DECISION ON LEGITIMACY OF FACTIONS.

3. RHODESIA: WHEN SUBJECT OF RHODESIA CAME UP, SITHOLE ATTEMPTED TO SPEAK, PROVOKING SIMILAR PROCEDURAL DEBATE. ARGUMENT WAS PUT FORWARD THAT FIRST SPEAKER SHOULD BE REPRESENTATIVE OF PATRIOTIC FRONT SINCE LIBERATION COMMITTEE HAD SINGLED OUT THIS ORGANIZATION, BUT IN ABSENCE OF EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT, OTHERS WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK. OTHERS ARGUED THAT UNTIL LIBERATION COMMITTEE'S REPORT ACCEPTED, ANC REMAINS RECOGNIZED ZIMBABWE LIBERATION MOVEMENT. NO CONCLUSION WAS REACHED IN DISCUSSION ON FEBRUARY 24. EMBASSY HAS COPY OF SITHOLE UNDELIVERED SPEECH WHICH ARGUES STRONGLY THAT OAU SHOULD NOT IMPOSE ITS CHOICE OF LEADERS ON ZIMBABWE AS THIS COULD ONLY LEAD TO CIVIL WAR BETWEEN AUTHENTIC LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

4. RULES FOR OBSERVER STATUS: COM MEETING ADOPTED CRITERIA FOR OAU OBSERVERS. OBSERVER STATUS WILL BE ACCORDED ONLY TO THOSE AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVING NO TIES WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. MOREOVER, WITH EXCEPTION OF RECOGNIZED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, OBSERVER STATUS WILL NOT CARRY WITH IT RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN CLOSED SESSIONS OF OAU. OBSERVER STATUS WAS DENIED UNDER THESE CRITERIA TO ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH-SPEAKING PARLIAMENTARIANS.

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5. BUDGET: FURTHER INFORMATION ON BUDGET ADOPTED FEBRUARY 23 (REF C) INDICATES 15 PERCENT IS SET ASIDE AS SOLIDARITY FUND FOR NEWLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES. MOREOVER, FIVE EX-PORTUGUESE COLONIES WILL NOT HAVE TO PAY DUES THIS YEAR. BUDGET INCLUDES \$.5 MILLION IN SUBSIDIES TO VARIOUS AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS. NIGERIA HAS PLEDGED SUPPLEMENTARY CONTRIBUTION OF \$3 MILLION FOR ASSISTANCE TO RHODESIA LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES.

6. WESTERN SAHARA: DATE FOR SUMMIT ON WESTERN SAHARA SET FOR APRIL 28.
PALMER

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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